

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the final Office Action mailed August 27, 2003. The Applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114, and therefore request that the final rejection be withdrawn to consider this Response B.

The specification has been amended to correct errors in spelling and syntax. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-26, 28-41 and 47-53 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-26, 28-41 and 47-53. The present Response cancels claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-26, 28-41 and 47-53, adds new claims 54-61 leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 54-61. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) OVER BURNETT (U.S. PAT. 4,592,579)

Claims 1, 2, 13-15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 34-37 and 47-49

Claims 1-2, 13-15, 21-22, 28-29, 34-37 and 47-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Burnett*. The Applicant requests cancellation of claims 1, 2, 13-15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 34-37 and 47-49.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) OVER ZUCHERMAN, ET AL. (U.S. PAT. 5,836,948)

Claims 1, 2, 7, 13-15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 34-37, 47 and 48

Claims 1, 2, 7, 13-15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 34-37, 47 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Zucherman*. The Applicant requests cancellation of claims 1, 2, 7, 13-15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 34-37, 47 and 48.

**III. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER NICHOLS (U.S. PAT. 5,361,766) IN VIEW OF
ZUCHERMAN**

Claims 3-6, 9-12, 17-20, 23-26, 30-33, 38-41 and 49-53

Claims 3-6, 9-12, 17-20, 23-26, 30-33, 38-41 and 49-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nichols et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,361,766) in view of Zucherman et al. The Applicant requests cancellation of claims 3-6, 9-12, 17-20, 23-26, 30-33, 38-41 and 49-53.

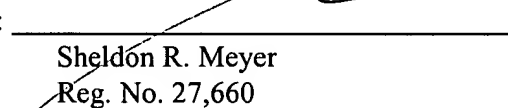
IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned before an advisory action is issued in order to avoid any unnecessary filing of an appeal.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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